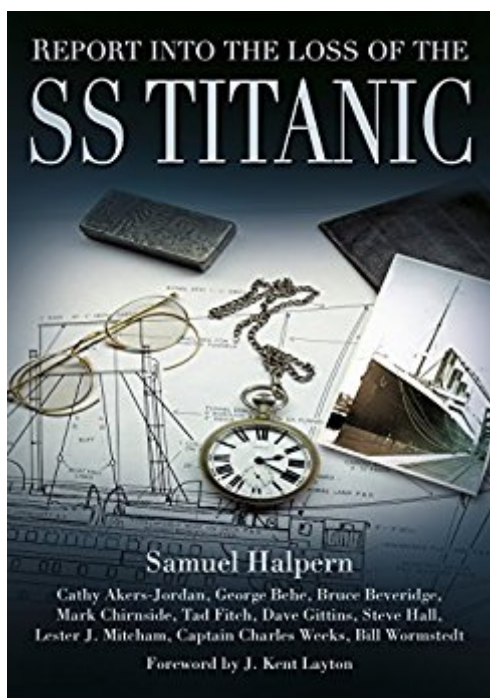


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# Report Into The Loss Of The SS Titanic



## Synopsis

Samuel Halpern has written widely on Titanic and often used the 1912 wreck report as a source of reference. It occurred to him one day how fascinating it would be if a team of dedicated, passionate, and expert authors were to issue a modern day report, with the knowledge we have today—what would such a report look like? In this book we have the answer. Following the basic layout of the report, this team provides fascinating insights into the ship herself, the American and British inquiries, the passengers and crew, the fateful journey and ice warnings received, the damage and sinking, protocol and process of rescue, the circumstances in connection with the SS Californian and SS Mount Temple, and the aftermath and ramifications around the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Report into the Loss of the SS Titanic" is a nice 100th anniversary summary of the Titanic accident and what has been learned since. The authors are an ensemble cast of many devoted Titanic amateur researchers from around the world. The book follows a similar format as the original accident report created by the British wreck commission in 1912 covering such basic as the Titanic's design and construction, breakdown of passenger and crew statistics, navigational details

during the journey across the Atlantic, and descriptions of the sinking and rescue. Where the book goes beyond contemporary investigations is attempting to reconstruct more precise timelines of events, reconciling the often contradictory first-hand accounts, and exploring the controversy of the nearby "mystery ship" based upon much more information than was available in 1912. These attempts to compile and reconcile so many disparate pieces of information are the book's greatest strength and provide a more cohesive history of the Titanic sinking than most any other book I've read. This effort alone is worth the price and makes it a valuable reference to future researchers. There are a couple areas where I had hoped for more. First, the book is largely a merging of research articles the various authors have posted on websites or in other publications. While it is nice to have these works assembled in one place, much of the information is freely available at online sources. The single aspect of the book I most wish had been improved upon from the web articles is the quality of diagrams, but many are identical to those used on author Sam Halpern's website. Another mild disappointment is the book does not include a full chapter about the wreck site itself and only has a few paragraphs. Clearly, the investigators of 1912 had no means to obtain evidence from the wreckage to help explain what transpired during the sinking. If such an accident were investigated today, an overview of the "accident scene" and the clues or lessons to be drawn from it would almost surely be discussed in some detail. I felt this was a lost opportunity by the authors. The material can be a bit dry and academic, which is great for engineers and technical types but may be harder for a general reader to dive into. Nevertheless, it is one of the most valuable contributions to the body of Titanic research books in many years. (NOTE: The copy I purchased on in December 2014 is a First Printing. An errata sheet can be found at <http://www.titanicology.com/Centennial/CentennialBookPage.html>.)

People who want to know all the details concerning the sinking of the Titanic, not necessarily the human stories, but times, dates, messages, times lifeboats were launched, etc., this is the book for you. For me, there was a lot of information I didn't understand because of its technical nature, a lot of repetition where information overlapped and very little human aspect. There are a lot of illustrations of different parts of the ship, lots of charts, lists, etc. I'm sure it's perfect for the reader for which it was intended. I skimmed a lot of the book, but learned some things I hadn't read about elsewhere.

This book is a nearly perfect reference book for hard-core Titanic fans/researchers like myself. Packed from cover to cover with intricate details on everything from what course the Titanic sailed to

how many people escaped in each specific lifeboat and everything in between makes this book a winner. Especially valuable is the technical analysis of the event. We learn for instance that since the collision happened such a short time after spotting the iceberg, reversing the engines played no role since the ship hit the berg at nearly full speed and did not come to a stop until a minute or two later. Also, the book forever demolishes the fantasies of supporters of Captain Lord of the Californian, the ship that stood still and did nothing while watching Titanic's distress rockets. My only complaint with this book is how it argues somewhat on behalf of Captain Smith. By saying that "It was standard practice at the time to go at full speed toward ice in clear weather" is like saying since most other Captains were risking their passengers lives, it was okay for Captain Smith to do so. Just try defending yourself in a courtroom by saying that "everybody cheats on their taxes" or "everybody plays with matches and dynamite" and see where that gets you. That one complaint aside, this is the best over-all analysis of the Titanic I have yet seen.

### New take on the loss of the Titanic

this book has a thorough investigation into the how and why and because with facts of construction and destruction of the titanic.

Much detailed information on the loss of the titanic. This is a reference book that should be owned by anyone interested in the Titanic. It is very readable from cover to cover. Note: the primary author and editor is Samuel Halpern, not George Behe (who co-authored one of the chapters). I wonder how mixed that up.

### A Great Book

I have heard many rumors, pseudo facts, innuendos and old wives tales about WHY the Titanic sank. Was it the steel, the lack of lookouts that saw the iceberg too late, the rudder was too small and they couldn't turn fast enough, strength of rivets, heat treatment of the riveted plates, watertight bulkheads were inadequate... etc. etc. etc. There were many inquiries in the few months after it sank in April 1912. Some were superficial, some more objective. This review by Samuel Halpern is an excellent collection of all the known facts of the time and adds more information learned since Ballard's discovery of the sunken wreck based on the condition of the wreck and tests on items retrieved from the deep water.. The reports, tables, drawings, charts, logs give a detailed account of

what happened. An Excellent treatment that you owe yourself to read. Let's hope all that was learned continues to make sea travel safer.

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